



"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

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Planning Underway for Memorial Day, 2027: U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS WWII NATIONAL MEMORIAL WEST 50th Anniversary

By Darin Detwiler

On Memorial Day 2027, we will mark an extraordinary milestone: the **50th anniversary of the dedication of the U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial West** in Seal Beach.

The Memorial was born from the determination of members of THE LOS ANGELES CHAPTER OF U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II. Planning began in the early 1970s, followed by years of fundraising, finding a location, acquiring a torpedo, and building the Memorial largely through the commitment and labor of submarine veterans and their families. On May 30, 1977, the Memorial was formally dedicated.

For 50 years, this hallowed ground has honored the 52 submarines and more than 3,500 submariners lost during WWII, along with those lost aboard USS *Thresher* and USS *Scorpion*. Today, our Los Angeles / Pasadena Base serves as its officially recognized custodian.

The 50th anniversary gives us an opportunity to do something larger than simply commemorate a date. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate the people who imagined this Memorial, those who built it, those who preserved it, and, above all, the shipmates whose names make its existence necessary.

Our USSVI mission calls upon us:

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Memorial Day 2027 should be one of the most significant observances in our Base's recent history. Planning is already underway, and we want our members, families, friends, and submarine community to help shape it.

We are asking you to look through your photographs, scrapbooks, files, and memories. Do you have photographs of the Memorial from years past? Were you there for an important ceremony or restoration? Do you have stories about the men and women who helped build or maintain it? Do you remember former Base members whose contributions should be recognized? Do you have any ideas for how we should commemorate this anniversary?

Please share those photographs, memories, stories, names, documents, and ideas with us.

The veterans who created this Memorial gave future generations a place to remember.

**Fifty years later,
it is our turn to make certain their work,
and the shipmates they sought to honor,
are remembered for the next fifty years.**



Click on the word "LINK" to open video



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IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

Dave Vanderveen

L.A.-PASADENA BASE WEBSITE

www.socalsubvets.org

The Periscope is a monthly publication
of the Los Angeles-Pasadena Base
of USSVI

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From the Wardroom

Shipmates and Members,

On September 11, 2026, our nation will observe the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the WORLD TRADE CENTER and the PENTAGON, as well as the loss of UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93. A quarter century has passed, yet we continue to live in a post-9/11 world shaped in countless ways by that day.

I have visited the NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL in New York City more than once, and each visit has reminded me of our own U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS WWII NATIONAL MEMORIAL WEST in Seal Beach.

Both are places of remembrance surrounded by a world that keeps moving.

In New York, some people come specifically to stand beside the reflecting pools and read the names. Others pass nearby without stopping. Some remember family and friends. Others honor people they never knew.

The same is true in Seal Beach. Hundreds, if not thousands of cars pass our memorial every day. I have talked to so many people that never noticed it... never even knew it existed. Others turn in deliberately to remember a shipmate or family member, or simply to pay their respects to the more than 3,500 submariners who did not return from WWII.



*A new American flag
flown above the
Memorial in mid-August.*

That is part of the purpose of a memorial.

**It does not exist only for those who remember.
It exists so that remembering continues
after those with firsthand memories are gone.**

Twenty-five years after September 11, an entire generation has been born with no memory of that day. Likewise, the generation that fought WWII is rapidly passing from living memory. That places a greater responsibility on those of us who remain.

Our memorial is more than stone, plaques, torpedoes, and names. It is a promise that these men mattered, their service mattered, and their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

This September, as America remembers the lives lost 25 years ago, may we also remember our responsibility as caretakers of memory.

We remember our shipmates. We preserve their stories. We keep their memorial. And we help the next generation understand why they should remember them, too.

Pride runs deep.



Darin Detwiler

Base Commander, USSVI Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



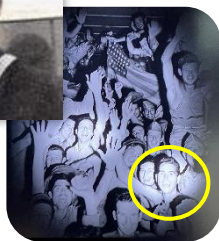
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Remembering

Jesse DaSilva



Images from
National
WWII
Museum



Jesse DaSilva (1924-1998) joined **USS Tang (SS-306)** after her second war patrol and served under the legendary command of CDR Richard H. O'Kane during the submarine's third, fourth, and fifth patrols.

On October 25, 1944, *Tang* was struck by one of her own defective torpedoes and sank in the Formosa Strait. Nearly 40 crewmen initially survived inside the forward torpedo room, but only 13 escaped through the submarine's escape trunk from a depth of about 180 feet. DaSilva was one of just five men to survive the ascent and reach the surface.

Captured by Japanese forces after surviving the sinking, he remained a prisoner of war until Japan's surrender in September 1945.

For his extraordinary gallantry during *Tang's* final war patrol, MoMM2c DaSilva received the Silver Star (and others, including the POW Medal.)

After the war, DaSilva became a pressroom supervisor at the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* and remained active in the submarine community. He was a member of the LOS ANGELES CHAPTER OF U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII, the predecessor of today's USSVI LOS ANGELES / PASADENA BASE.

Minutes of August 15, 2026, eBoard Meeting

The Base **Executive Board** meeting was called to order by Base Commander **Darin Detwiler** meeting at the home of Dennis Walsh in Brea, CA, at 1010 Hrs.

The following members in attendance:

Darin Detwiler *Base CO* / **Ray Teare** *Base VC* / **Bill Moak**, *COB* / **Sue Bolton**, *Treasurer* / **Stan Westrick**, *Secretary* / **Ken Dorn**, *Director* / **Dave Vanderveen**, *Immediate-Past Commander*, **Dennis Bott**, (*Director*). Not Present: **Chuck Senior**
A quorum was met.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: (July) With no corrections or additions noted, **David Vanderveen** moved to approve the minutes from the May Meeting, **Ray Teare** seconded. Motion approved and the minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Sue Bolton** presented the July reconciliation as of August 14, 2026:

Checking Account-	\$24,922.83
Cash on hand-	\$50.00
Uncleared checks-	None
Total-	\$24,972.83

Expenses

U-Haul for Parade	\$102.89
-------------------	----------

(Stan Westrick)

July meeting Pizza	\$104.46
--------------------	----------

(Dominoes)

All bills have been paid.

Income/Donations

Ken Dorn	\$200.00
----------	----------

Ship's Store Sales	\$00.00
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With no corrections or additions noted, **David Vanderveen** moved to approve the Treasurer's report, **Dennis Bott** seconded. Motion approved and the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Total Members	Holland Club Members	USSVI Life Members	Base Life Members
99	66	67	64

MEMORIAL REPORT:

- **Stan Westrick** will place flowers at each boat lost in September.
- 19 cap blocks on memorial pony wall are broken. 35 cap blocks are loose. We are looking into a fix for this.
- Lions Club wants to touch up the white paint on the boat casements (early 2027).
- **Darin Detwiler** discussed idea to attach QR codes on the side of each casement that will explain the particulars of that boat. Before we do that we need to verify the information for each boat is accurate. This was tabled again.
- **Dennis Bott** reported there are weeds growing between the new memorial bricks. The Navy Base maintenance will be notified.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Gary Wheaton..... 9/5
 Bill "Skippy" Dillon..... 9/6
 Jim Rogers 9/11
 Ron Jones..... 9/14
 John Lucio 9/20
 Ernie McNeece..... 9/21
 Vanessa Butler..... 9/22
 Ron Thompson 9/23
 Dennis Yure..... 9/27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL!

BINNACLE LIST:

Ed Barwick

was finally from the VA hospital. Unfortunately, Ed is back in the hospital.

You can send Ed a Text or give him a call at (562) 268-6066.

Ed Arnold

is still in his assisted living facility in Yorba Linda.

Marilyn Senior

was recently discharged from a stay at the hospital and is now back home while dealing with physical rehab.

Michael "Willie" Williamson reminds us that

"getting old is not for sissies."



Minutes of August 15, 2026, USSVI LA/P Base E-Board Meeting (Continued)

STORE KEEPER

- **Bill Moak** moved and **Dennis Bott** seconded for the base to pay the expenses for the four Holland Club Ball Caps for this years' four inductees. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Sue Bolton** reported there has been no progress on the US Submarine Charitable Fund question. So the transfer is still on hold.
- **Bill Moak** is checking on Base Longevity Pins.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Art Schwartz** (Elections Committee Chair) gave an update on our Base elections- All elected board members have agreed to run for another year. Even though they will run unopposed all members need to still vote and return their ballots. **Darin Detwiler** will need to step down as Base Commander in January, due to work relocation.
- The next Chamber of Commerce Pop-up is scheduled for September 26. It will be from 1100 to 1500. **Darin Detwiler, Dennis Bott, Stan Westrick** and **Larry Duncan** have volunteered to man the booth. If you are interested in participating, please let Darin know at ddetwiler680@gmail.com

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- **Willie Williamson** discussed that the USSVI *Phoenix* base had the ground-breaking ceremony for their Memorial today. There was an inquiry regarding donation of a LA/Pasadena Base brick. This will be brought up in next month's meeting for a vote.
- Don't forget to vote in the National USSVI election AND our base election via email.
- Future events / meeting locations:
 - **September 19** - Base Meeting will be held at **Taco Surf on PCH** (16281 PCH, Surfside, CA, 92706 - Recommendation - park on the NORTH side parking lot.
 - **September 26** - **Pop-up at the Pier** in Seal Beach 1100 – 1500
 - **October 17** - Base Meeting will be held at **VFW Anaheim** Post 3171 (805 E Sycamore St, Anaheim, CA 92805) This is our Annual Officer Installation Luncheon.
 - **November 21** - Base Meeting will be held at – **L.A. County Fire Museum** (16400 Bellflower Blvd, Bellflower, CA 90706) This will be a Thanksgiving themed light lunch where we invite staff and docents from the museum.
 - **December 5** - **Pop-up at the Pier** in Seal Beach 1100 – 1500
 - **December 19** – **Christmas Luncheon** **Navy Golf Course** (5660 Orangewood Ave, Cypress, CA 90630)

ADJOURNMENT

Dennis Bott moved and **Stan Westrick** seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1137 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Westrick

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI





The **UNITED STATES**
SUBMARINE VETERANS'
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

is the official charitable arm of USSVI. It is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which means donations made to the foundation may be tax-deductible and are used exclusively for charitable, educational, memorial, scholarship, and veteran-support purposes. The Foundation supports submarine veterans, their families, memorial preservation, education, scholarships, museums, and outreach programs that honor the legacy and continuing service of the U.S. Submarine Force.

The USSVCF funds include:

- Brotherhood Fund
- General Fund
- Memorial Fund
- Museum Boat Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Submarine Library Fund
- Building Fund
- Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Fund
- Legacy Fund

These dedicated funds allow donors to support specific aspects of the submarine veteran community and its mission.

Minutes of August 15, 2026, USSVI LA/P Base General Meeting

The Base **General meeting** was called to order by Base Commander **Darin Detwiler** meeting at the home of Dennis Walsh in Brea, CA, at 1100 Hrs.

Darin Detwiler opened with a prayer, led the Pledge of Allegiance, then read the USSVI Purpose / Creed.

READING OF BOATS LOST THIS MONTH IN HISTORY (August)

Submarine	Date Lost	Hands Lost
USS <i>BULLHEAD</i> (SS-332)	6 August 1945	All hands (84 men)
USS <i>FLIER</i> (SS-250)	13 August, 1944	78 / 84 men lost - 14 survived the sinking, but only 8 survived the swim to an island to be later rescued by USS <i>Redfin</i> (SS-272)
USS <i>S-39</i> (SS-144)	14 August, 1942	No hands lost
USS <i>HARDER</i> (SS-257)	24 August, 1944	All 79 hands lost
USS <i>COCHINO</i> (SS-345)	16 August, 1949	No hands lost - However, USS <i>Tusk</i> (SS-426) lost six sailors in their efforts to save the crew of the Cochino.

MOMENT OF SILENCE....

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darin Detwiler, Stan Westrick, Tami Westrick, Sue Bolton, Larry Butler, Ray Teare, Cindy Teare, Dave Vanderveen, Larry Duncan, Bill Moak, Kathleen Carder, Mike Swanson, Dennis Walsh, Joe Koch, Joe's guest Nancy Jamison, Ken Dorn, Willie Williamson, and Arthur B. Schwartz JR

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Darin Detwiler reported that the Board had approved the minutes from the last meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report that was approved at the Executive Board meeting. (See full report in eBoard minutes above.)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Total	Holland Club	USSVI Life	Base Life
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OLD BUSINESS:

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- Base elections- All elected board members have agreed to run for another year. Even though they will run unopposed all members need to still vote and return their ballots. Darin Detwiler will need to step down as Base Commander in January due to work relocation.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- **Williamson** discussed that the USSVI *Phoenix* base had the ground-breaking ceremony for their Memorial today. There was an inquiry regarding donation of a LA/Pasadena Base brick. This will be brought up in next month's meeting for a vote.
- Don't forget to vote in the National USSVI election AND our base election via email.

Helpful Phone Numbers for Veterans

MyVA411

(General VA Inquiries):
1-800-698-2411
available 24/7

VA Benefits Hotline

(Claims, Back Pay):

1-800-827-1000,
M-F, 8 AM – 9 PM ET

Veterans Crisis Line:

Dial **988**, Press 1;
also 24/7 text **838255**
for immediate support

VA Homeless Programs:

1-877-424-3838, 24/7

CHAMPVA

(Civilian Health &
Medical Program):

1-800-733-8387,
M-F 8 AM – 7:30 PM ET

VA Community Care Network:

1-877-881-7618,
M-F, 8 AM – 9 PM ET

VA Caregiver

Support Line:

1-855-260-3274

GI Bill Assistance:

1-888-442-4551

Name Badges (and more!)

Shawn, the owner, is a Navy Veteran who has worked with us for a long time and has the Dolphins as well as our national and base logo templates!



Shawn Fitzpatrick - Owner

**University
Trophies & Awards**
(562) 429-0415

4221 E. Willow (at Lakewood) Long Beach, CA 90815
www.universitytrophies.com
e-mail: sales@universitytrophies.com

Future events / meeting locations:

- **September 19** - Base Meeting will be held at **Taco Surf on PCH** (16281 PCH, Surfside, CA, 92706 - Recommendation - park on the NORTH side parking lot.
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ADJOURNMENT:

Dennis Bott moved and **Joe Koch** seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 1137 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Westrick

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

Dennis Bott won this month's 50/50 Draw and donated it back to the base. Thank you, Dennis!

The ELECTION for **USSVI National Officers and Regional Directors** is now underway, and every eligible member is encouraged to participate. The preferred voting method is online through the personalized email you received from **ElectionBuddy**. Online voting is now open and the deadline to cast your ballot is **September 5, 2026, at 8:59 p.m. PST**. Each member must complete and submit their own ballot. Proxy voting is not permitted, although members may assist others with the voting process. Any proxy ballots will be rejected. If you have not yet voted, please take a few minutes to do so. Your participation helps shape the future leadership of our organization and ensures your voice is heard. For election questions, email subvet635@aol.com.

SEPTEMBER SUBMARINE “FIRSTS”

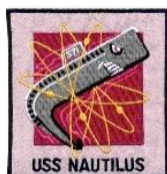
(Memorize these, as there will be a test...)

On September 11, 1942, Pharmacist's Mate First Class **Wheeler B. Lipes** performed **the first at-sea appendectomy on a crew member** atop a mess table on board the submarine **Seadragon (SS-194)** while the boat is submerged on patrol in the South China Sea. The 'surgery' was successful and **Lipes**, though initially almost punished for performing the surgery, went on to retire 20 years later as an LCDR.



September 21, 1959, the submarine **Barbero (SS-317)**, equipped with **Regulus I** missiles, makes the **first deterrent patrol to the North Pacific**.

September 28, 1964, in the **first deployment of the Polaris A-3 missile**, the fleet ballistic missile submarine **Daniel Webster (SSBN-626)** departs the naval base at Charleston, South Carolina.



September 30, 1954, USS **Nautilus (SSN-571)**, **the world's first nuclear-powered submarine**, is placed in commission.



L.A.-Pasadena Base's Holland Club Roster:

(75-year members noted with *)

Earnest Glen McNeece	2026
Arthur B. Schwartz	2025
Scott Hultner	2024
Stanley O. Westrick	2024
Bruce Danielson	2023
Ronald R. Jones	2023
Larry Duncan	 2022
Gerard A. Krudwig	2022
Gregory M. Paulson	2022
Michael J. Swanson	2022
Ralph J. Hansen	2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr.	2021
Larry D. Long	2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr.	2021
Edward E. Kushins	2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors	2020
Frank M. Berezney	2019
David H. Vanderveen	2019
Dennis Bott	2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor	2018
Robert Miller	2018
Roger C. Dunham, MD	2017
Richard McPherson	2017
Harry "Bill" Moak	2017
Elliot Rada	2017
Ronald G. Wagner	2017
Dennis J. Walsh	2017
Michael Kish	2016
Charles B. McCarthy, Jr.	...2016
Gary Wheaton	2016
Lawrence R. Butler	2015
Samuel T. Higa	2015

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SHIP'S STORE

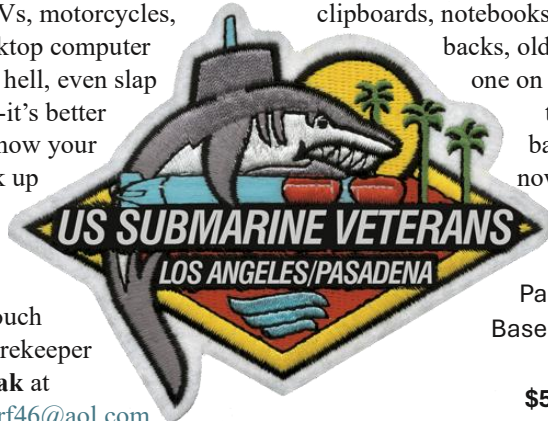


Clearance Price on T-Shirts!

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Veterans" Tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch! Now a mere **ten bucks** apiece, there's no reason not to have a closetful. Contact Bill Moak for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!

L.A.-Pasadena Base Logo Stickers!

They're not just for the refrigerator, bubblehead! Stick 'em on cars, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, clipboards, notebooks, laptops, old steamer trunks... hell, even slap one on your forehead-it's better than a base pride tattoo! Show your and stock up now!



Get in touch with Storekeeper **Bill Moak** at Golfnsurf46@aol.com

L.A.-Pasadena Base Sticker (3 3/4 x 5) **\$5.00 ea.**



USSVI Logo Patch (9 3/4 x 6 3/4) **\$11.00 ea.**



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch (3 3/4 x 5) **\$5.00 ea.**



Holland Club Member Patch (3x3) **\$6.00 ea.**



Submarine Force Challenge Coin **\$20.00 ea.**

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2026 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our base activities and charitable functions possible:

- Ken Dorn (multiple)
- Stan Westrick • Bill Moak
- Dennis Bott (multiple)



Booster Club and *Flower Fund* donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to **Sue Bolton at 13561 Iowa Street, Westminster, CA 92683-2637**. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate *Booster Club* or *Flower Fund* on your check. **Thanks!**

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

(75-year members noted with *)

Harry P. Ross2015
Charles H. Senior.....2015
Larry E. Smith2015
David Palagyi2014
Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr.....2014
David D. Semrau, DDS ...2014
Ray Tracy Teare.....2014
Milton Harry Boudov2013
Kenneth Jon Dorn.....2013
M. Mark Hoffer2013
Michael P. Klein2013
Ronald L. Levenson.....2013
Edward L. Arnold2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw...2012
Raymond Cheesebrough..2012
John V. Mahan2012
Lee Melody.....2012
Clyde Matthew Turner.....2012
George R. Walrath2012
John L. Weisenberger2012
Edward A. Barwick2011
Joseph W. Koch, Jr2011
Robert E. Fleming2010
Stephen D. Diumenti2009
David Whittlesey2009
Dennis A. Yure.....2009
Armen Bagdasarian2008
Paul A. Riggs2008
Rex L. Shields2008
Francis R. Traser.....2006
Ronald K. Thompson.....2004
James Rogers2003
*William F. Long.....1999
*Patrick Zilliacus.....1994
*William J. Dillon1993



In case you
are
wondering,
we have
67
Holland
Club
members!

Los Angeles – Pasadena Base

2026 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 17	<u>Monthly Meeting</u> – VFW Anaheim “Hobo Stew Day”
February 21	<u>Monthly Meeting</u> – L.A. Co. Fire Museum
March 21	<u>Monthly Meeting</u> - Simi Valley Military History Museum
April 16-19	WESTERN REGIONAL ROUNDUP (Las Vegas)
April 18	<u>Monthly Meeting</u> - <i>VIRTUAL</i> [Recording can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/j3RPIQfmvb0]
May 16	<u>Monthly Meeting</u> - Marni’s Restaurant (formerly “Glory Days”) [Nominating Committee Appointed]
May 16	Pat Zilliacus’ 100th Birthday Party
May 23	Light clean-up at the US SUBMARINE VETERANS WWII NATIONAL MEMORIAL WEST from 10-12.
May 25	Memorial Day Ceremony. 11:30 – 1 (ish) Coordinated with S.B. Lions Club @ Eisenhower Park (Seal Beach Pier).
June 13	<u>Seal Beach Health Expo</u> * - USSVI Booth 10:00 – 2:00
June 20	MONTHLY MEETING / WWII SUBMARINE VETERAN Event * - <u>L.A. County Fire Museum</u> [Brief video here: https://youtube.com/shorts/AExzT2u3EoA]
July 3	<u>“Run Silent, Run Deep” BAY THEATRE</u> , Seal Beach 3-5:30 USSVI providing intro and Q&A
July 4	<u>Annual Fourth of July Parade in Huntington Beach</u> *
July 18	MONTHLY MEETING @ VFW Anaheim
August 15	MONTHLY MEETING * LEROY STONE MEMORIAL PICNIC - “Hawaii” Theme at Dennis Walsh’s home in Brea. [2027 Base Officer Candidates Announced]
September 6-11	<u>USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION</u> in Corpus Christi, Texas
September 19	MONTHLY MEETING - Taco Surf on PCH (16281 PCH, Surfside, CA, 92706 - Recommendation - park on the NORTH side parking lot. [Election of Officers]
September 26	Pop-up at Seal Beach Pier. USSVI Booth 11:00 – 3:00
October 17	MONTHLY MEETING - VFW Anaheim Post 3171 (805 E Sycamore St, Anaheim, CA 92805) This is our Annual Officer Installation Luncheon.
November 21	MONTHLY MEETING - L.A. County Fire Museum (16400 Bellflower Blvd, Bellflower, CA 90706) This will be a Thanksgiving themed light lunch where we invite staff and docents from the museum.
December 5	Pop-up at Seal Beach Pier. USSVI Booth 11:00 – 3:00
December 19	Annual CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON at the NAVY GOLF COURSE 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630



USSVI LA / P Base
photos from the
**2026 LeRoy Stone Memorial
Picnic /**
Hawaiian Theme BBQ
(at the home of Dennis Walsh!)

**So many great Hawaiian /
Submarine / Aloha Shirts!**

1. Our excellent host –
Dennis Walsh
2. Dennis' dog **Coughlan**
"The Boss" **Walsh**
3. **Art** "Election Committee
Chair" **Schwartz Jr**
4. **Larry** "New Guy" **Duncan**
5. **Nancy** (Joe Koch's guest)
Jamison
6. **Joe** "Gold Dolphins" **Koch**
7. **Ray** "Base XO" **Teare**
8. **Cindy** "looks just like her
photo from last month"
Teare
9. **Willie** "Cool Shirt"
Williamson
10. **Sue** "Base Treasurer"
Bolton
11. **Dave** "Regional Boss"
Vanderveen
12. **Darin** "Base CO" **Detwiler**
13. **Tami** "I'll Stay in the
Shade" **Westrick**
14. **Stan** "Base Secretary"
Westrick
15. **Bill** "Base COB" **Moak**
16. **Kathleen** "Shades" **Carder**
17. **Larry** "Tennessee Traveler"
Butler
18. **Dennis** "Memorial
Director" **Bott**
19. **Ken** "I smell smoke" **Dorn**
20. **Mike** "Chill" **Swanson**





2026 LEROY STONE MEMORIAL PICNIC



**We gather to share
the stories of long ago...**

**and to create the stories
we'll tell tomorrow.**



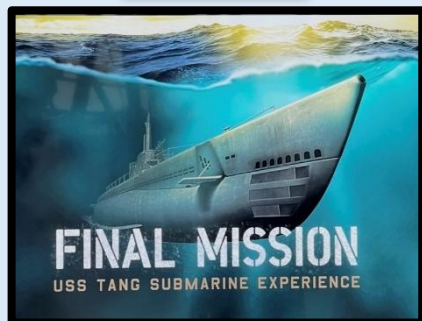
If *you* have taken, are in the possession of, or find any photos or videos of our base members, activities, or even just submarines in general (maybe from a vacation where you visited a museum boat), please consider sending us the link, along with a brief review explaining the story behind the video. Old, new, bad quality, professional – they're all welcome! Your submission may be featured in a future issue.

(USS *TANG* SUBMARINE EXPERIENCE)

Photos by Darin Detwiler

Photos by Darin Detwiler





These two photos by Darin Detwiler



SSN-680

Submarines built at
INGALLS SHIPBUILDING
in Pascagoula, Mississippi:

BARBEL CLASS:

USS *Blueback* (SS-581)
(The Navy's last commissioned diesel submarine,
now a museum boat in Portland, OR)

SKIPJACK CLASS:

USS *Sculpin* (SSN-590)
USS *Snook* (SSN-592)

THRESHER/PERMIT CLASS:

USS *Barb* (SSN-596)
USS *Dace* (SSN-607)
USS *Haddock* (SSN-621)

STURGEON CLASS:

USS *Tautog* (SSN-639)
USS *Pogy* (SSN-647)
USS *Aspro* (SSN-648)
USS *Puffer* (SSN-652)
USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680)
USS *Tunny* (SSN-682)
USS *Parche* (SSN-683)

Note:
I went through
our member
database and
counted
12 of our base
members as
having served
aboard one of
these boats built
in Pascagoula!



U.S. Navy submarine chaser *PC-566*

An Unexpected Submarine History Lesson

By Darin Detwiler

While in New Orleans on business, I finally visited the NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, (see more on previous page) expecting to earn something new about the undersea war. I did...especially about **USS *Tang*** and **Jesse DaSilva**. The museum's immersive "**Final Mission: USS *Tang* Submarine Experience**" captures the tension, uncertainty, and teamwork that defined life beneath the sea. Walking through it, I was reminded that today's submariners are connected to a lineage stretching back to the earliest days of unrestricted submarine warfare.

However, the most memorable submarine history lesson of the trip came a day later and 150 miles east along the Gulf Coast.

Later that week, I visited VIETNAM MEMORIAL PARK in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, home to several memorials honoring military service and sacrifice, including tributes to **USS *Tullibee* (SS-248)** and the 13 submarines built in nearby Pascagoula. Among them is **USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680)**, the submarine on which I had the privilege of serving. Constructed at INGALLS SHIPBUILDING, these boats represent a generation of U.S. Navy submarines that helped define the Cold War era (see more on previous page).

It was there that an ordinary conversation became anything but ordinary.

Another visitor asked whether I knew the story of ***U-166***. I told him I was familiar with German U-boat operations off the East Coast and Japanese submarine operations off the West Coast during WWII, but I couldn't recall anything about that particular boat.

He smiled and began telling a story that seemed almost too extraordinary to be true. My curiosity got the better of me, so I decided to research it myself. The facts proved to be just as remarkable as the story.

In July 1942, the German submarine ***U-166*** torpedoed the passenger ship ***SS Robert E. Lee*** south of the Mississippi Delta. Her escort, the submarine chaser ***PC-566***, immediately counterattacked with depth charges. Its commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander **Herbert Claudius**, reported that he had destroyed the submarine.

The Navy didn't believe him. Investigators concluded that Claudius's attack had failed, criticized his tactics, relieved him of command, and credited a Coast Guard aircraft with sinking ***U-166*** two days later. That official version stood for nearly 60 years.

Then, in 2001, **C&C Technologies** - an offshore geophysical survey and marine technology company that primarily served the offshore oil and gas industry - made an extraordinary discovery. Nearly 5,000 feet beneath the Gulf's surface, their sonar revealed the wreck of ***U-166*** resting less than two miles from the ***SS Robert E. Lee*** - exactly where Claudius had reported sinking her!

The Coast Guard aircraft had actually attacked another submarine, ***U-171***, which survived.

Modern technology had accomplished something remarkable: it had corrected the historical record.

(Story Continues on Next Page)

An Unexpected Submarine History Lesson

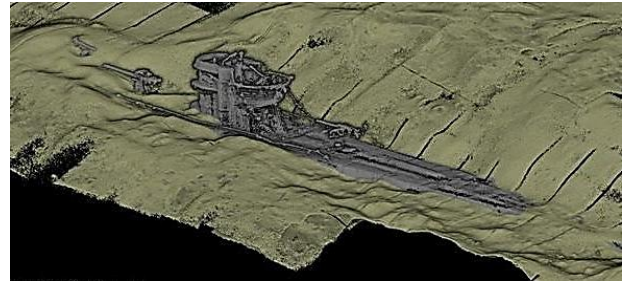
(continued)

The wreck was later documented by an expedition led by **Dr. Robert Ballard**, the oceanographer best known for discovering *RMS Titanic*. Before that historic achievement, Ballard led a classified U.S. Navy expedition in 1985 to conduct detailed forensic surveys of the already-located 1960's wrecks of *USS Thresher* (SSN-593) and *USS Scorpion* (SSN-589).

Using advanced robotic submersible imaging systems, his team documented these Cold War wreckages, assessed the condition of the nuclear reactors, verified that sensitive technology had not been compromised during the Cold War, and gathered evidence to better understand the submarines' losses. Only after completing those classified objectives did **Ballard** use the remaining mission time to locate *Titanic*. *(That story alone is worthy of a Hollywood movie.)*

While at a conference in 2003, I was fortunate to meet Dr. **Ballard** and discuss deep-ocean exploration, this was one of those 'meeting your heroes' moments! He talked about his exploration of *Thresher* and *Scorpion* – but our conversation took place about a decade prior to what he and his team would strive to confirm in the Gulf of Mexico.

Ballard's 2014 expedition to *U-166* employed remotely operated vehicles to document the wreck in remarkable detail, providing compelling evidence that confirmed Lieutenant Commander **Claudius's** 1942 combat report. The findings ultimately led the Navy to acknowledge that Claudius had been right all along.



2013 Wreckage Scan of German submarine *U-166* in the Gulf of Mexico, about 45 miles off the coast of Louisiana and roughly one mile from the wreckage of *SS Robert E. Lee*.

Tragically, **Claudius** did not live to see his name cleared. More than a decade after he died, and 72 years after the attack, he was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for Valor.

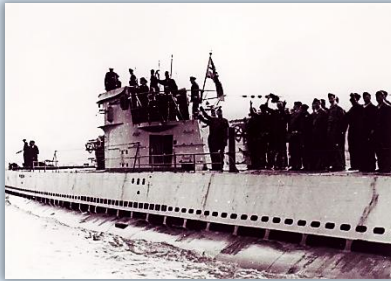
What struck me most about this story wasn't simply that a wartime mistake had finally been corrected. It was that the truth emerged not from forgotten paperwork tucked away in an archive, but through advances in undersea technology and the persistence of those who refused to let the official record be the final word.

I set out expecting to learn something new inside one of the nation's finest museums. Instead, the lesson that stayed with me came from a fellow veteran beside a submarine memorial. It reminded me that our history isn't preserved only in exhibits or archives. It lives in the memories of those who served, in the places where our boats were built, and sometimes on the ocean floor itself...waiting for technology, persistence, and another submariner to uncover the truth.

Perhaps that's one of the enduring lessons of our community. Our boats spend their lives beneath the surface, but their stories never truly disappear. Sometimes they simply wait for someone to bring them back into the light.

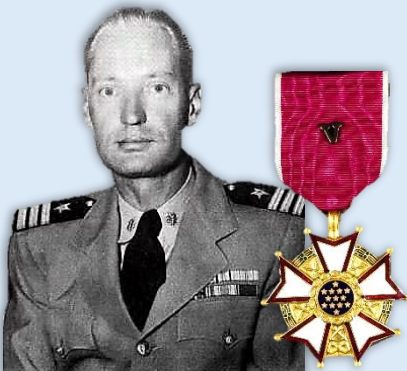


Passenger ship *SS Robert E. Lee*



German submarine *U-166*

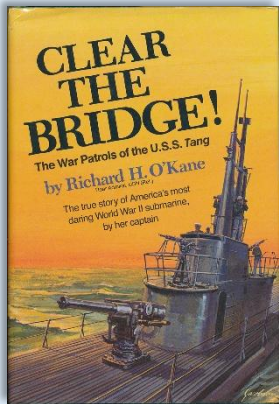
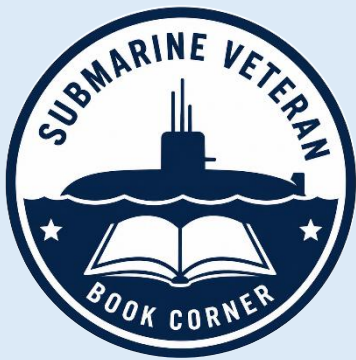
Our
history
lives
in the
memories
of
those
who
served...



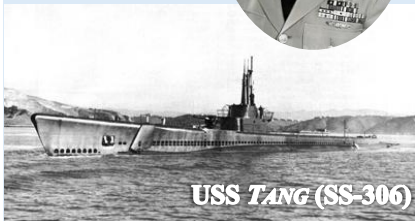
Capt. Herbert G. Claudius (1907-1981)
Posthumously awarded
the Legion of Merit w/ Combat "V"



Cdr. Dr. Bob Ballard, (USN, Ret.)
Pres. - INSTITUTE FOR EXPLORATION,
Explorer-in-Residence -
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.



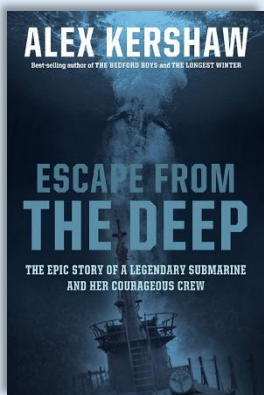
Rear Admiral
Richard O'Kane



USS TANG (SS-306)



MoMM2c
Jesse DaSilva



UNDERSTANDING USS *TANG* THROUGH TWO BOOKS

By Darin Detwiler

The first edition of *Clear the Bridge!* (published in 1977) is a firsthand account by its commanding officer, **Richard H. O'Kane**, of the five war patrols of USS *Tang* (SS-306) during WWII in the Pacific. The book chronicles *Tang's* remarkable record as the most effective U.S. submarine of the war, credited with sinking 24 Japanese ships totaling more than 93,000 tons.

The book's climax is *Tang's* final patrol in the Formosa Strait. On October 24-25, 1944, O'Kane was on the bridge during a nighttime surface attack when the submarine was struck by one of its own circular-running torpedoes. The explosion sent *Tang* to the bottom in just moments. Of USS *Tang's* crew of 87, only nine men survived. Four, including O'Kane, escaped from the bridge or conning tower as the submarine sank, while five, including Jesse DaSilva, survived a remarkable 180-foot ascent from the submarine's escape trunk using Momsen Lungs before being captured by Japanese forces and imprisoned in camps, including Omori, until the war's end.

Following the war, O'Kane continued his distinguished Navy career, ultimately retiring in 1957 as a Rear Admiral. In retirement, he authored two acclaimed memoirs, *Clear the Bridge!* (1977) and *Wahoo* (1987), preserving the stories of the submarines and crews he led for future generations. Richard H. O'Kane died in 1994, leaving behind one of the most remarkable legacies in the history of the Silent Service.

In *Escape from the Deep* (first published in 2008), historian Alex Kershaw reconstructs *Tang's* final patrol through extensive interviews with the surviving crew, including **Jesse DaSilva**. (More information about DaSilva appears elsewhere in this edition.) Where O'Kane's memoir tells the story from the bridge, Kershaw brings readers into the forward torpedo room, the escape trunk, and even the thoughts of the men fighting to survive. His account captures the split-second decisions, discipline, and determination required to endure one of the most extraordinary submarine tragedies of World War II.

DaSilva's ascent from the sunken *Tang* is among the book's most unforgettable passages. Alone in total darkness, 180 feet below the surface, he resisted panic, trusted his training, and climbed methodically toward the light. Escaping the submarine, however, was only the beginning. Like the other few survivors, he was captured by Japanese forces and endured imprisonment for the remainder of the war.

Read together, these two books tell a story that neither could tell alone. O'Kane explains the tactical decisions, leadership, and combat that made *Tang* legendary. Kershaw reminds us that history is also deeply personal, measured not only in ships sunk or battles won, but in the thoughts, fears, and determination of the sailors who lived through them. One book reveals what happened. The other helps us understand what it felt like. Together, they offer one of the most complete and moving accounts of courage ever written about the Silent Service.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

"I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THEY WENT DOWN FIGHTING AND THAT THEIR BROTHERS WHO SURVIVED THEM
TOOK A GRIM TOLL OF OUR SAVAGE ENEMY TO AVENGE THEIR DEATHS."

-Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

SEPTEMBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920, when a jammed main air induction valve allowed seawater to pour into the submarine during a crash dive, sending her plunging to nearly 200 feet. Trapped for 37 hours in a flooded hull with failing air and chlorine gas from the batteries, the crew managed to force the stern 17 feet above the surface before cutting an escape hole through the exposed hull. The small freighter *Alanthus* spotted the protruding stern, secured alongside the stranded submarine, and provided the critical platform, air, water, and assistance that made the rescue possible until additional help arrived. Every one of the 38 sailors survived in one of the U.S. Navy's greatest submarine survival stories, though **S-5** herself could not be saved.



USS GRAYLING (SS-209)

Presumed lost on September 9, 1943, during her 8th war patrol after disappearing near the Tablas Strait. All but her first patrol were rated successful. After sinking the Japanese passenger-cargo ship *Meizan Maru*, she was never heard from again. Many historians believe *Grayling* was accidentally rammed by a Japanese merchant ship west of Luzon, though her exact fate remains one of the Pacific War's enduring mysteries. All 77 men were lost. *Grayling* earned six battle stars. The USS *Grayling* Memorial in Denver, Colorado, was dedicated on August 8, 1976, by the Mile High Diggers Chapter of the Submarine Veterans of WWII. Today it is maintained by USSVI's Rocky Mountain Base.



USS POMPANO (SS-181)

Pompano was lost at some point in September or early October 1943, while conducting her seventh war patrol. Before her loss, she had sent two cargo ships to the bottom. Japanese records indicate a submarine in *Pompano*'s patrol area off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki was destroyed on September 17 by an air and depth charge attack. But the exact cause of *Pompano*'s loss remains uncertain: if not sunk by this air/sea attack, then she likely fell victim to a mine sometime between September 9 (when she radioed in a ship sinking) and October 5, when she was set to return to Midway. Her suspected final ship sinking, the *Taiko Maru*, actually took place on September 25, so it's more likely her loss to a mine is the correct theory. *Pompano* went down with all 77 men. [New evidence from Japan suggests it may have been hit by depth charges from members of the Japanese Navy on 17 September 1943]



USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on September 25, 1925, after colliding with the British liner *SS City of Rome* while operating at periscope depth off Block Island, Rhode Island. The submarine sank in 130 feet of water, claiming 33 of her 36 crewmen. Her salvage in 1926 became one of the U.S. Navy's first major submarine recovery operations and led to significant advances in submarine rescue techniques and safety procedures.



USS CISCO (SS-290)

Lost on September 28, 1943, during her first war patrol in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao. On 28 September, *Cisco* should have been due west of Mindanao in the center of the Sulu Sea. On that day a Japanese antisubmarine attack was made slightly north and east of *Cisco*'s expected position. In reporting the attack the Japanese state "Found a sub tailing oil. Bombing. Ships cooperated with us. The oil continued to gush out even on tenth of October." The attack would seem to have been made by planes in cooperation with ships. No submarine that returned from patrol reported having been attacked at this time and position. 76 men were lost.



WE REMEMBER For those who gave their lives in defense of our country **WE REMEMBER**

UPCOMING EVENTS



**2026 USSVI
Nat'l Convention**
Sep 06 - 11



**SEPT 19
Base
Meeting**



**16281 PCH,
Surfside, CA
92706**

(Best if you park in lot on north side)
Meet inside, way to left

[MENU](#)



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Enjoy the day outdoors!
EISENHOWER PARK
At the base of the Seal Beach Pier

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- LOCAL ARTISANS & HANDMADE GOODS
- BOUTIQUE CLOTHING, HATS & ACCESSORIES
- FRESH BAKED GOODS & SWEET TREATS
- LIVE DJ & BEACHSIDE TUNES

★ FREE COMMUNITY EVENT ★
Support Local • Shop Small • Enjoy the Coast

SEAL BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SealBeachChamber.org

STAY CONNECTED!
Scan to visit our website for vendor info & event updates.

SCAN HERE!

SEPT. 26

**USSVI LA / P
Base Booth:
1100-1500 Hrs.
(Awareness,
Membership Drive,
Ship's Store Sales,
and more!**

Volunteers wanted.



OCTOBER 17 Base Meeting
VFW Post 3171 Anaheim
805 E Sycamore St, Anaheim, CA 92805
[Annual Officer Installation Luncheon]

USSVI LOS ANGELES / PASADENA BASE MEETING
With Thanksgiving Lunch
SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 21, 2026
COMBINING OUR BASE MEETING WITH A THANKSGIVING-THEMED LUNCH

Honoring Our Friends at the
L.A. COUNTY FIRE MUSEUM
STAFF & DOCENTS

Holiday Turkey Sliders & Pumpkin Pie

NOV 21 Monthly Meeting: Thanksgiving Theme
L.A. County Fire Museum



**Submarine Veterans'
Christmas Luncheon**

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 19, 2026 • NAVY GOLF COURSE • CYPRESS, CA

Hawaiian-Themed Holiday Luncheon





USS Tang (SS-306)

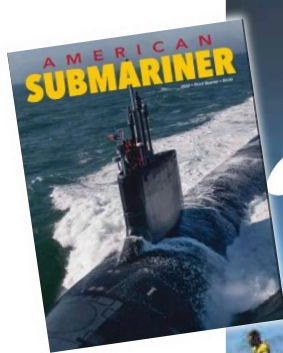
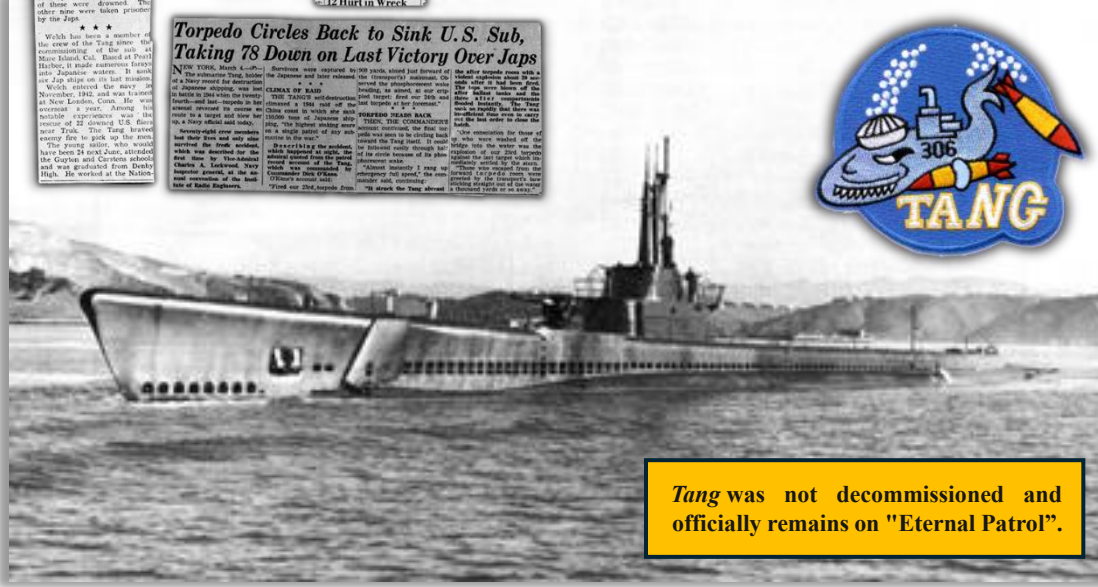
Commissioned on 15 October 1943 under Lt. Cmdr. Richard H. O'Kane.

Over five war patrols, Tang sank 33 enemy, making her one of the most successful WWII submarines.

On 24 October 1944, during her fifth patrol, Tang was struck by a circular run of her own torpedo in the Taiwan Strait, going down in 180 feet of water.

Of the 87-88 crew members aboard, only nine survived the sinking – then to be picked up by a Japanese boat and taken as POWs until the end of the war.

Among them was Motor Machinist Mate Second Class Jesse DaSilva and the submarine's Commanding Officer, Commander O'Kane.



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- Add a USSVI Calendar for only \$7 more

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P.O. Box 3870
Silverdale, WA 98398-3870

Please indicate BSP and the name of the sponsored boat or organization in the memo field of your check

- ✓ Reach potential new members by sending three annual subscriptions of *American Submariner* to the boat or organization of your choice
- ✓ First-time sponsors receive a Boat Sponsorship Patch
- ✓ All sponsors entered into the quarterly Boat Model Giveaway drawing (one entry per sponsorship) — a \$500 value

SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS Columbia (SSN-721)
USS Connecticut (SSN-22)
USS Delaware (SSN-791)
USS Greenville (SSN-772)
USS Helena (SSN-725)
USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN-795)

USS Montana (SSN-794)
USS North Dakota (SSN-784)
USS Kentucky Blue (SSBN-737)
USS Kentucky Gold (SSBN-737)
USS Maine Blue (SSBN-741)

Questions?

Jack Messersmith
(928) 227-7753
or e-mail
MesserJ109@gmail.com





*In memory
of the
fifty-two
submarines
lost in
World War II*



SEALION	CISCO	HARDER
S-36	S-44	SEAWOLF
S-26	DORADO	DARTER
SHARK I	WAHOO	SHARK II
PERCH	CORVINA	TANG
S-27	SCULPIN	ESCOLAR
GRUNION	CAPELIN	ALBACORE
S-39	SCORPION	GROWLER
ARGONAUT	GRAYBACK	SCAMP
AMBERJACK	TROUT	SWORDFISH
GRAMPUS	TULLIBEE	BARBEL
TRITON	GUDGEON	KETE
PICKEREL	HERRING	TRIGGER
GRENADIER	GOLET	SNOOK
RUNNER	S-28	LAGARTO
R-12	ROBALO	BONEFISH
GRAYLING	FLIER	BULLHEAD
POMPANO		

